



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Agricultural Survey Is an Opportunity to Provide the Facts

NASHVILLE, May 5, 2006 - How many acres will be planted to cotton and soybeans this year? What impact will high fuel and fertilizer prices have on Tennessee agriculture? What are the latest livestock trends? To answer these and many other questions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office will have their interviewers contact a sample of agricultural producers during late May through mid-June.

There is always speculation about each new crop season. Debra Kenerson, Director of the Tennessee Field Office said, "This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2006. If we speak up and answer the questions about this crop season, we can reduce uncertainty in the agriculture marketplace."

The up-to-date results are an unbiased snapshot of agriculture from the best source—the producers. Producers rely on the data to make production and marketing plans. The information gathered is widely valued by agriculture's supporters, too. Producer associations, extension agents, industry analysts, and Congress use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Ms. Kenerson reminds producers. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the important regional, state, and national data."

For a copy of survey results or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Tennessee Field Office website at www.nass.usda.gov/tn or call 1-800-626-0987.

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